NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on November 17, 2005, <u>CHARLES MICHAEL WADE</u>, age 26, of Carbondale, Illinois, and <u>STEPHANIE M. RENNISON</u>, age 26, of Murphysboro, Illinois, were sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. Both WADE and RENNISON had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment, charging them with conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. WADE was sentenced to 240 months' imprisonment, 10 years' supervised release and was fined \$300. RENNISON was sentenced to 87 months' imprisonment, 4 years' supervised release and was fined \$300. WADE received an enhanced sentence because he had a previous felony drug conviction. RENNISON received an enhanced sentence because she disposed of anhydrous ammonia in a manner which endangered young children.

The violation took place between May 2003, and May 10, 2005, in Jackson and Perry Counties. Co-defendants SHANE A. CLUTTS and MELISSA A. WADE have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Co-defendants RYAN J. STEIN and KENNETH R. GRAFF have pled not guilty and are awaiting jury trial.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The Perry County Sheriff's Office also assisted in the investigation.

The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.